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First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

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The Grant Method

In his memoirs General Grant set down his conviction of the method it had been necessary to apply to reduce the Confederacy. His method, which was called into operation when he became commander in chief of the Northern armies, was simple, but heroic. It was a strategy based upon strength, by which the weaker of two contestants was to be worn down by constant pressure on all fronts. From the spring of 1864 to the collapse at Appomattox the armies of the North were constantly striking, suffering great losses, but drawing upon great reservoirs of human material which were lacking to the South.

If we are to understand what is now taking place on the Western front, it must be by recognizing that the British and the French are there putting into operation the Grant idea. When Grant started from the Rapidan for Richmond the North believed the final campaign of the war had begun and that the summer would see the end of hostilities. Much the same expectation now exists in many minds as to the European campaign. There is a growing belief that we shall this year see the collapse of German resistance and a decisive victory for the nations which are fighting for civilization against Germanism. But it is well to remember that the North was mistaken as to the time limit of the Civil War and that the world may easily be similarly mistaken now. Looking backward, it is clear that Grant's campaign of 1864 broke the back of the Confederacy. Unless the Allies are equally successful this year, there will be cause for real depression. But it was not until April, 1865, that the real achievement of Grant was apparent, and it may not be until next summer that we see the real consequence of the pounding that is now beginning.

Just as the North expected the fall of Richmond, the world is now looking forward to the piercing of the German lines and a consequent colossal disaster. This may come. But it is to be remembered that this is the maximum of the expectation of Allied strategy. The minimum is far different. Between the two there is a wide range of possibility.

Great offensives hitherto in the present war have had for their purpose some definite object, such as the piercing of a line at a given point. In the case of the Allies such offensives have almost invariably been made not merely because of the situation on the immediate front, but because of necessities elsewhere. Thus the Allied attack in September, 1915, was made in advance of adequate preparation because of the Russian situation. And the offensive at the Somme a year later was made primarily because Verdun was in sore straits.

To-day the Allies have no time limit to face. They have no condition elsewhere which calls them to move in advance of complete readiness, and there is evidence that they have no intention of making any forced drive. We have seen the British attack and win the most notable victory of trench warfare in the West, and we have seen them, having achieved a great success, pause and begin methodically to collect their artillery and their munitions for another blow. We shall presently see the French, now attacking, doing the same thing.

It is well to put aside any overemphasis of the value of the map in the present campaign. The primary object of Allied strategy now is not to pierce German lines, but to break German resistance on any line on which Hindenburg elects to stand and fight. Possessing superior numbers, superior artillery and an enormous advantage in ammunition, the Allies propose to use these deliberately and methodically to break down not merely the physical but the moral strength of the foe before them with the least expenditure of life consistent with achieving this object.

The great losses in offensives in trench warfare have invariably come after an initial attack has met with material success. In the Battle of Champagne the French took twenty-five thousand prisoners and one hundred guns in the first attack at a relatively low cost. They suffered very heavy losses with no great gains when they tried to continue their attack—to "stretch" their success—without further adequate artillery preparation. At Verdun the Germans scored very heavily in the first five days at relatively moderate cost, and their subsequent gains were purchased at a frightful expense and were inconsiderable.

It is one of the most hopeful signs of the war that the British have not made a similar mistake before Arras, and having taken the maximum of possible profit from their original attack have halted, consolidated their position and permitted the Germans to expend thousands of lives in fruitless counter-attacks. We shall have, some time in the next week or ten days, another British blow. At that time we shall probably see the French pause on the ground that they have gained, methodically and deliberately consolidate their positions, bring up their artillery and prepare for a new blow.

The simple question that we have to face now is whether the Germans can long endure the constant pounding which is to be their portion this year. In ten days they have lost nearly thirty-five thousand prisoners and more than three hundred guns. They have been driven from some of the strongest positions on their front and they have been unable, despite desperate efforts, to regain any of the lost territory. We have the testimony of figures as well as of eyewitnesses to show an unmistakable lowering of the German morale. The conviction of the German soldier that the German machine was invincible, that his generals could not make mistakes, and that his enemy was beneath contempt—these ideas have passed away.

For the moment the question of where a battle takes place is of lesser interest. We are seeing the final test of endurance. It may be a long test or a short test, as German morale yields quickly or slowly to superior numbers and guns. But for the present our measure of Allied progress must be primarily the number of guns captured, and, secondly, the number of men captured. The surrender of more than two hundred guns at Arras, many of them large pieces, was a disaster the like of which no German army has suffered since the Napoleonic times. It demonstrates a breakdown in morale and in organization which, however local it may prove to be, would have seemed incredible a year ago and beyond conception before the Battle of the Marne.

At the end of the present campaign the Germans may not yet be out of France. At the close of the Battle of the Somme they still clung to most of their positions, having yielded only an inconsiderable area. But the decision of the Somme was demonstrated in their subsequent retreat. Every possible effort the Germans can make they will make to hold on until fall, with the purpose of arranging another peace campaign. It may be that the fruits of the present offensive will not be gathered until next spring, although those already gathered exceed the fruits of six months of fighting at the Somme last year. We are going to have periods of activity, periods of pause. It is unlikely that we shall see again immediately any such sweeping progress as has been made in the last ten days. The positions which the Germans are now being driven into may hold for many weeks. But it is well once for all at the beginning of this great summer campaign to bear in mind that the result is not to be measured by ground captured; that the main Allied purpose is not to pierce the German lines; but that the Allies are applying the Grant method, which won the Civil War for the North. Under that treatment the Army of Northern Virginia, while it was still undefeated, was worn to a "frazzle." While the North still looked despondently at the lines before Richmond—lines recalling the present trenches—the victory had in fact been won and the collapse was on the point of taking place.

No man can say whether modern Germany will endure defeat as the French Republic endured it for the long months after Sedan, when all hopes of victory had vanished. After Napoleon's victory at Jena and Auerstadt the Prussian army melted away in a wild flight, and a single blow destroyed the military structure of Frederick the Great. It is always possible that such a collapse may come again. Many who know Germany well have predicted that the first defeats would be followed by a complete breakdown. But this is not an expectation to be counted upon by wise observers. Germany has still millions of soldiers, enormous reserves of munitions and of guns, and there is no military reason why she cannot hold out through next year. After the North had established complete superiority over the South at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the South resisted for two years. The parallel to-day is 1864, and not 1863, but almost a year separated the Wilderness from Appomattox. Americans will best understand the situation in the present campaign in Europe by comparing the position of Germany to-day with that of the South in 1864, and the strategy of the Allies with that of Grant when at last he moved southward on the road that led to Petersburg and Appomattox.

Unfair and Discouraging

No satisfactory explanation has been given of the adjutant general's order stopping the issue of commissions to candidates for the Officers' Reserve Corps. On its face the order seems intended to restrict applications and to put obstacles in the way of those who have been earnestly working for commissions in accordance with the government's suggestions, and at its urgent invitation.

Candidates who have passed their examinations and have a right to expect appointments without any further uncoiling of red tape now face a new set of requirements. Along with the applicants who have not been examined they must attend a training camp for three months—at their own expense—and must satisfy a camp examining board of their "educational, military and physical fitness."

It is unfair to men who have prepared for examinations under the government's original plans—to say nothing of those who have passed the examinations—to subject them to these additional tests. Relatively few of the candidates can afford three months of training at their own cost. The government has paid nothing to men training at home and out of business hours. But it is something altogether different to demand that the candidates give up their occupations in order to train at a camp and still expect them to pay their own expenses.

We cannot believe that the War Department's change of policy is due merely to lack of training camp funds. Congress could easily be induced to vote the small sum needed to meet the cost of feeding 20,000 men for three months. There seems to be a desire, rather, to make the attainment of commissions more difficult and to give an advantage to those of the candidates who have means and leisure.

If the supply of officers in sight were ample there could be no objection to keeping the standard of selection high. But the country will need within the year 30,000 or 40,000 more officers. The training camps are not expected to produce more than 10,000. A rigid test would therefore defeat the purpose of the government's call for officers. Officers are more needed than men are, and there must be a good deal of latitude in the commissioning of officers.

But even if the material were unlimited and the vacancies to be filled were relatively few, there would be no excuse for applying a selective test based not on military promise or competency, but on financial ability. Applicants for commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps should have a more equal chance than will be offered under the adjutant general's order. The government ought to pay the way of all those who are willing to try for commissions at the training camps.

End the Menace!

Why should the Senate Finance Committee hold up Senator Wagner's bills for the abandonment of construction of state institutions in the Croton watershed? Practically, the project is dead. Construction of the Mohansic State Hospital and the Boys' Training School at Yorktown has been stopped. But so long as the proposed legislation calling for the abandonment of these sites and its accompanying bill forbidding the location of any state institutions in future within the watershed are not passed the menace to New York City exists.

Still another threat against the peace of mind of this city lies in the proposed amendment to the health law which would give to the State Health Commissioner power to authorize a sewage outlet into any of the waters of the state when in his judgment a menace to health or a nuisance would not be created thereby. Dr. Biggs has already expressed the opinion that treated or purified sewage might be permitted to mingle with the Croton water without menacing the city's health. That is directly contrary to the opinion of many experts and eminent physicians, and is certainly miles away from the desire of any person in this city who has to quench his thirst with water from the tap.

This menace of sewage-infused drinking water has been hanging over New York City now for many months. It seems high time the Legislature ended it. There is no reason why the prospect of an epidemic of disease should be presented longer to the public here. The Legislature can set the entire issue at rest by passing the Wagner-Bloch bills, as Governor Whitman recommended, and by cutting out the dangerous provision in the proposed health code.

Censorship and Rumor

(From The Manchester Guardian)

The censorship shook people's faith in the press, and now, when that faith is somewhat restored, newspapers are difficult to get, and a considerable section of the public which used to buy newspapers now simply cannot get them. The more difficult it becomes to get newspapers the more scares will flourish, and the more harm they will do.

"And His Rest Shall Be Glorious"

I send you forth—
With your steadfast eyes unclouded,
(Into the dimness—into the dark.)
I, too, have heard the bugle
Calling, "Boots and saddles! Ride away!"
(Out of the forest—over the hills.)
Tramp—tramp—
I can hear them marching, marching—
Soul of our country that has waked at last
from slumber!
All through the long day,
All through the still night . . .
Your feet are marching with them—
Dear feet that come not back.
. . . . . .
Always in dreams I see you
Under the spectral cedars—
White face beneath the gray sky,
Smiling no more . . . forever . . .
. . . . . .
I send you forth!

LUELLA STEWART.

With All Her Faults

Reasons Why England Deserves Friendship of Americans

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Native Americans who read of the incident at the dinner of the Society of Illustrators should pray for more Cass Gilberts to rebuke the Bourke Cockrans, whose sectarian prejudices and alien hostility to England were voiced but recently by others of the same race in doing honor to their patron saint.

We have had our differences with the British government in times past, but we must not forget that they were with the government and its policies and not with the English people. Even in our first conflict it must be remembered that our ancestors were Englishmen who fought for English principles and our Declaration of Independence was but the third step in the progress of Anglo-Saxon democracy, following in sequence the Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights. Later, when our relations with the British government became strained during our Civil War, James Russell Lowell, who did not spare the English Cabinet and its following who took sides with the Southern States, took occasion at the same time to remind us of our kinship with the people across the sea and of the danger of making ourselves "insensible to the value of British opinion." He touched the right chord when he wrote to "The Atlantic Monthly" in this connection:

"Because the door of the old homestead has been once slammed in our faces, shall we in a huff reject all future advances of conciliation and cut ourselves foolishly off from any share in the humanizing influences of the place, with its ineffable riches of association, its heirlooms of immemorial culture, its historic monuments, ours no less than theirs, its noble gallery of ancestral portraits? We have only to succeed and England will not only respect, but, for the first time, begin to understand us. And let us not in our justifiable indignation at wanton insult forget that England is not the England only of snobs who dread the democracy they do not comprehend, but the England of history, of heroes, statesmen and poets, whose names are dear, and their influence as salutary to us as to her."

A generation later Oliver Wendell Holmes, who described himself as an "inveterately rooted" American, expressed sentiments applicable to conditions to-day which might well supplement Mr. Cass Gilbert's patriotic rejoinder to Bourke Cockran:

"Who is there," he wrote, "of English descent among us that does not feel with Cowper,

"'England, with all thy faults, I love thee still'?

"Our recently naturalized fellow-citizens, of a different blood and different religion, must not suppose that we are going to forget our inborn love for the mother to whom we owe our being. Protestant England and Protestant America are coming nearer and nearer to each other every year. The interchange of the two peoples is more and more frequent, and there are many reasons why it is likely to continue increasing."

And he adds, we "feel more and more the truth of the generous sentiment which closes the ode of Washington Allston," "America to Great Britain": "We are one!" H. W. S.

Philadelphia, April 19, 1917.

Wiping Out the Stain

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am a German-American, having lived in this country for the last ten years, enjoying all the liberty and freedom of a godly nation. Contentment and happiness have been ours till this terrible war broke out, which I regret to say has cast a shadow on all good German-Americans; we are almost a scorn to the whole world.

The Fatherland has cast a stain on us by breaking pledges, wilful murder, destruction of the beautiful and disregarding all higher ideals of man.

The reflection falls back upon us like the bad parent of good children, and our friends, whom we love as the apple of our eye, stand aloof and wonder if we the offspring will do the same. Can you blame them, our friends, when the Fatherland has so fallen from grace, the one who should set a good example to her children?

We must bear the disgrace alone, and there is only one way for us to redeem ourselves.

We must live up to our word. We must be true to the flag of our adopted country. There must be found no traitors among us. We must fight the good fight, and we will win back the honor, the respect, love and admiration of our friends, the American people, which we have so enjoyed heretofore.

I, therefore, as a German-American, denounce the Fatherland and all its wicked works, and I and mine will never darken her doors till she wipes out the stain which she has so wilfully and brutally thrust upon us.

J. C. MUELLER.

Hartford, Conn., April 12, 1917.

"April 19th, 1775-1917"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your newspaper editor, being human, likes to get now and then a word of honest praise. Permit me then to express my admiration for the leader, "April 19th, 1775-1917," in to-day's Tribune.

It is a dignified and elevating discourse upon the subject of the spirit of liberty that sustains us as a nation. One can hardly read it without emotion. Would that it might be reprinted and the leaflet put into the hands of young men and women all over the land. A happy thought, too, that of prefacing these noble expressions with the stirring lines, that we all love, of Emerson's "Concord Hymn."

May I venture, after a modest fashion, to divulge the secret of my forwardness in wishing long life to your journal? It so happens that I was born on the morning of April 11, 1841—Easter Sunday. Early next morning the first number of The New York Tribune appeared. FRANK WARREN HACKETT.

Washington, D. C., April 19, 1917.

St. John's Chapel in War Time

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It seems to me that the quite extensive plant of St. John's Chapel, in Varick Street, may be worth utilizing for war purposes, and that it would be a great mistake to tear the structure down now. In addition to the church edifice there is a two story structure of considerable floor space, and on the plot where the old hospital and the rectory were once located there is room for other buildings. D. C. B.

New York, April 19, 1917.

An Old "Reb" to the Colonel

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Please say to Colonel Roosevelt that he can promptly get fifty thousand sons of old "Rebs" down in Dixie who will gladly follow him wherever he would lead. The Colonel is after our own heart. I am eighty and can't go, but I have an only son who will.

E. P. MORRISSETT,
Ex-Confederate.

Lower Peach Tree, Ala., April 16, 1917.

A Jewish Palestine Under England

By Dr. Gaster, The Founder of Zionism in England

(From The Pall Mall Gazette)

We Zionists have often had it said to us that Palestine should be given to the Jews. That, however, is very far from my desire, for without the machinery of government and without holding a preponderance of population such a gift would be but a burden, and would be productive of nothing but interracial strife and national disappointment. What I desire to see, and hope that some day I shall see, is Palestine under the political control of Great Britain and of Great Britain alone. The form of suzerainty is immaterial. Whether the overlordship be such as that which prevails in Egypt, or Cyprus, or in any other of this country's protected states does not concern me; it is the substance of progress I seek, not the shadow of a name. It must be borne in mind that no condominium of powers, no dual control, would be a possible alternative. For Palestine to be prosperous the firm and just control of one power, and one only, is essential.

The Proposed Constitution.

Existing nationalities would have to be acknowledged, their interests safeguarded and the Turkish system of groups continued. Thus there would be in Palestine three nations—a Mahometan nation, a Christian nation and a Jewish nation—the sphere of each being determined by the supreme power. To each nation would be given the power of independent internal administration and the control of all matters concerning education and charity, with, of course, the power of taxation. Each language, again, would be recognized as official and legal. The system introduced should be similar, in fact, to that of the Austro-Hungarian constitution in theory—that is to say, each nation should preserve its individuality and yet should go to form one entity.

The Moslem element in Syria has been stationary since the Crusades, and the Turkish government has not contributed to build up the ruins of the desolated land. But at the same time I should like to say a good word for the Turk, for the Jews have had nothing of which to complain. They have not been singled out for persecution or subjected to any special laws, or forced to live in pales of settlement; and their feeling is not one of unkindness. They, with the rest of the peoples of the Ottoman Empire, have had only to deplore the inertness of the government and the hindrance it has placed in the way of development; and all this has ruined the Turk more than it has the Jew. When the change of government comes, it is to Great Britain alone that the Jews will look to turn the wasted home of their fathers into a land again flowing with milk and honey, and to give the inhabitants of the Holy Land that Pax Britannica which is the one essential if Palestine is to become the spiritual centre of Jewry and the home of the homeless Jew.

Jews have no political schemes of conquest, though, once established in Palestine, they would constitute a stout barrier to any threat from the north to the British power in Egypt. It would, in fact, be as much a question of self-defence as one of loyalty to those who had given the Jews the possibility of settlement in the Holy Land. We contemplate a charter, granted by the sovereign power to the Jews, a charter that will not impinge upon the acquired rights of the actual inhabitants, but will give the Jews a privileged position—the right of pre-emption and purchase of crown lands and railways, and facilities for all manner of industrial development. Free ingress of immigrants, who will flock to the Holy Land, will be granted, and the right to regulate the influx vested in the Jews themselves. It would, of course, be stipulated that only secular land or property should be acquired, the sacred places remaining under the control of their own peoples as heretofore.

The revolution in Russia has changed to a certain extent the aspect of the immigration question, and has surely changed it for the better. For the millions of Jews in Russia will no longer feel the pressure driving them to emigration, and the stream from there will cease to flow. The position of the Polish Jew, however, still presents a problem for which no solution has been found, and a great influx from that part of the world is not unlikely.

The Hope of the Zionist

What the Jews want is not the power to rule, but the feeling that they are being governed by a just and fair administration, equitable, tolerant and sympathetic, which, moreover, understands the possibilities of their future. Palestine to the Jews is not like a Gentile colony. Jews will not go there to enrich themselves. They will go to find contentment and peace of mind, freedom from oppression, so that, unhampered, a spiritual state may rise there, to become a centre of light to themselves and to all the peoples. A Jewish Palestine would prove a link between the cultures of East and West, the high road where all could meet, in peaceful competition, to serve the highest aims of mankind.

The Independents

A Disappointing Show That Is None the Less Important

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have just come away, perhaps I should say got away, from the Independent Artists' exhibition. It contains exhibits by people who could do things if they wanted to, only they can't want to. Other exhibits are by people who can want to, but can't do things. Some show knowledge of nature, but not of art; others knowledge of art, but not of nature. Some of the exhibitors can draw, but not color; others the other way around. Some show much individuality, and you wish they wouldn't. Some show cows' heads. Some have lost their souls; others only the use of their senses. Numbers have abolished their brains, and some others imitate them, and there are still others whom God has spared the need of this effort. Some have human skill in their hands; others merely smear with the chewed-off stumps of their arms. Some could design, had their insides any filling; others possess full insides, but no power of coördination. Some are real children who belong in the nursery; others masquerade as children because they are too weak to endure the labor of grown folks and whose place is in the psychopathic ward. Some are devils, occasionally husky and hopeful; others are angels, often wan and weakly. Some know themselves; others deceive themselves. Some love beauty, mostly from afar; many love ugliness and wallow in it. The heads of some contain good gray matter; of others, cotton wool, and of still others pure condensed vacuum. Some see hue, but the majority only pigment. Some follow a gradation of light exquisitely, while the next canvas denies that such a thing exists. Some think in terms of coördinated nonsense; others, just nonsense plain. Some have observed the natural world and enjoyed it; others know only the hideous subjective phantasms of diseased minds.

There may be a total of several dozen, hardly several score, significant entries. As a whole, the show disappointed me. Nevertheless, it is infinitely important that it should be held and go on being held. The management deserves great credit for bringing it into existence, an act for which each of us should be personally thankful.

The tone of the background should be darker and the amount of artificial light at least doubled. Low illumination favors blatant work and submerges that which is fine. Full illumination exposes the blatancy of the one and reveals the fineness of the other. Every one who can tell one color from another and craves the opportunity to do so so must exult, vastly, at the blue glass globes, with their color-revealing illumination.

BOLTON BROWN.

New York, April 15, 1917.

A Health Census for Chelsea

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Chelsea neighborhood begins on April 23 to take a health census among 25 per cent of its residents. This undertaking, reaching 45,000 people between Fourteenth and Forty-second Streets, west of Fifth Avenue, is the first of its sort in New York City. The Chelsea Neighborhood Association, in devising it, aims to lay a foundation for continued community health planning.

The census will provide this foundation by recording such facts as the type and prevalency of sickness, its duration and the extent to which the sick in Chelsea make use of the forty or more local health resources.

Accurate and conscientious work in this census taking is guaranteed by the coöperation of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Under F. W. Ridgway, superintendent, forty agents will collect Chelsea's health information, using methods found effective in many other cities. The returns will be tabulated and correlated by the statistical department of the company, under the charge of Dr. Louis I. Dublin.

On behalf of the Chelsea Neighborhood Association, I ask all Chelsea people among your readers to give full coöperation to the census takers as they make their rounds. It is a rare chance to ascertain accurately the health conditions of the district and to improve its opportunities.

E. H. LEWINSKI-CORWIN,
Chairman Health Committee, Chelsea Neighborhood Association, Inc.

New York, April 19, 1917.

Voting as a Reward

It Offers Opportunity for Further Service by Patriotic Women

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the letter which you printed on April 18 under the heading "The Burden of the Ballot," three main points were urged against granting women the vote as a reward for patriotic service during the war.

It was urged that women should not be paid for or rewarded. In any sense which involves a bargain this is certainly true; but there is one way in which a disinterested service of love, such as patriotism, may be rewarded, and that is by granting an opportunity for further service and thus showing trust and appreciation of the value of the first service. Such a reward would be the giving of the vote to women—a thing to be accepted as a high privilege because it is an opportunity for almost unlimited service.

It was urged that women should not be weighed down and hampered in their other activities by the burden of the vote. Women, we are told, will gladly accept the additional work necessary to win the war, but the onerous task of voting afterward is too much to ask. In short, women are pictured as ready and able to help to "save the state" if it can be done in the enthusiasm and with the spectacular effect that arise from a state of war, but unable to give a little time, and it means only a little comparatively, to the casting of the intelligent votes which must lay the foundation of a worthy democratic form of government.

The article drew also a false analogy between the volunteer system of raising an army and the so-called "volunteer system" of voting. One of the greatest objections to the former is that it draws into service the finest and most noble part of the nation, that only the "slackers" are left to manage the affairs, business and political, of the country. Now very fortunately voting is not nearly as frequently fatal as going to war, and therefore, if the best of the nation votes and the "slackers" stay at home, so much the better.

Any one who will read the patriotic list of patriotic activities in which women are now engaging, as quoted in the letter to which I refer, will find little doubt left in his mind, I think, that patriotic women will find time after the war, or during it for that matter, to do their less conspicuous duty of voting, whenever they are given the opportunity.

RHODA B. WARNER.

New York, April 19, 1917.

Garden Clubs for Golfers

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Some years ago I introduced through your columns what was supposedly then considered an outlandish idea. I will now repeat it and make it more in accordance with the times. As men now have golf clubhouses in the country, I would have horticulture clubhouses, with many acres of cultivable land.

The clubmen of New York, those beyond fifty years of age, and, having slackened up in business, seek a hobby for recreation and pleasure, could have no more interesting and beneficial pastime than that of cultivating a garden plot, either for small fruits and vegetables or for flowers. The inspiring surroundings, the healthful exercise and the usefulness of the work must appeal strongly to the innate love of nature in man and help him extend his years. At the same time the interior of the clubhouse could be all that was desired in inclement weather.

A RURAL NEW YORKER.

Brooklyn, April 18, 1917.

A New Way to Help

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Speaking of doing one's bit, here is a way that seems to me worthy of publicity. I have a letter from a school teacher in a small Michigan town, in which she says: "I can't go West this summer, because I may be needed on account of the war. Not that I intend to enlist and go to Germany, but I have offered to take children here and take care of them for any one who wants to go and has no place to leave his children. I can do that and keep on teaching, you see."

GEORGIA JACKSON.

New York, April 19, 1917.

Some Brands of Humbug

Swivel-Chair Patriots, Highly Moral Pacifists and Talking Suffragists

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Our attitude since the declaration of war has shown that the Germans are right on one count at least, namely, that the Anglo-Saxons are a race of humbugs. Our national idea has come to be, "How can I get somebody else to do his bit?" The most offensive exponent of this doctrine is the swivel-chair patriot. Usually too old or too fat to do anything himself, he is an uncompromising advocate of conscription; with Spartan courage he talks of raising thousands, millions of young men, and pouring them into the battle lines in France. Mention doubling the income tax to him and anarchist will be the mildest name he will call you.

A corporal in a "crack" regiment of the Guard expressed the opinion to me that college men were too valuable economically to go to the trenches. (He is a lawyer!) Another corporal in the same regiment thought that it was more needed here "to keep down the Socialists." Others think that they should stay here to keep an eye on the Mexicans, the German-Americans, and heaven only knows who else! Most college men are planning either to ride up and down the coast in motor boats or to be officers—anything, in fact, but to carry a gun.

Suffragists are doing their usual bit, namely, talking from 10 in the morning to late at night planning work for other people to do. These women before the war used to infest settlement houses and charity organizations, getting up innumerable conferences; now they are riding around on horses, shooting off silly little rifles and planning farms. We can be sure of one thing, and that is that they will never work on these farms themselves; they never have worked and they never will; I should like to have them give the only thing they have to give, money, and keep still.

The pacifists have worked out the best system for what H. G. Wells calls "enjoying the war." They continually assure each other that the high moral courage they show in doing nothing but talk is of a much finer and rarer variety than the mere physical courage required to risk death and mutilation, and of course they are more intelligent than the believers in a "narrow nationalism." So they are to eat three meals a day, sleep well at night, and at the same time show a higher intelligence, a more lofty patriotism, and a truer courage than the poor simpletons who go into the trenches. One of the leaders of the Emergency Peace Council, taken seriously for the first time in his life, is having a splendid time going around fearing assassination from the militarists.

The plain fact is that in peace times our possessing classes are so accustomed to the idea of harvesting the fruits of other people's labor that they cannot help applying the same agreeable system to the present crisis.

Now, I believe in this war, but I have seen something of it (from a safe berth in the American Ambulance), and I have seen in many parts of men come back from it that I don't know whether I will have nerve enough to enlist. If I don't enlist I am at least going to try to be honest, and original, and confess that it is because I am afraid to do so. I will thus be the only coward among the millions of young men who don't go.

Ithaca, N. Y., April 19, 1917. C.

Cold Water for the Thirsty

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the hope that you may find room for it in your columns, this letter seeks to tell briefly of the work of a small committee, one of the many organized by the Woman's Municipal League of the City of New York.

The committee mentioned has for fifteen years brought comfort and relief to the overcrowded districts of the city by supplying drinking fountains of water cooled with ice during the summer months, when the water in the pipes is of a temperature nauseating for drinking purposes. The cold water is literally life giving to the tired worker, to the many children and to the sick to whom it may be carried. On a hot day in summer one may see long lines of people waiting for their turn at the cool water, which offers them their only chance of a little refreshment and ease from the smoking heat of the pavements.

The fountains touch upon another point which is of no little importance. Men by scores are kept from saloons (and alcohol is twice as harmful during the heat) by affording them an opportunity to quench their thirst in the cold water. On West Street, between the Battery and Houston Street, there are about two hundred saloons, and the water fountain at the Seaman's Church Institute has a constant stream of visitors all through the night, as well as during the day. Surely it is not right that men should be driven to drink through the lack of a little cold water.

About thirty fountains have been installed, a few of which have been discontinued, owing to changed conditions in the neighborhood, while some are supported as memorials. Sixteen are now maintained by the efforts of the committee, and funds are badly needed to carry on the work. The increased cost of ice and of labor (the fountains must be kept in constant repair) has raised the average maintenance cost of each fountain to about $100 for the season. This money has so far been raised by subscriptions and gifts, chiefly out by entertainments.

The committee believes that if this relief work were a little better known, it would make its appeal even in these times of stress.

Contributions may be sent to Mrs. H. T. Weidenfeld, Woman's Municipal League, 110 West Fortieth Street.

ICED WATER FOUNTAINS COMMITTEE.

New York, April 17, 1917.

"Sammy" of the U. S. A.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: All the opinions and efforts to find a word for our American soldiers have interested me very much.

Why can't we call every "Nephew" of Uncle Sam a "Sammy"? We continually hear of the British attitude of calling us their "Cousins," and I think "Sammy" and "Tommy" have a first cousin sound.

There could be no mistake and no confusion anywhere in the world about where or the American Continent a "Sammy" belonged. It is euphonious, simple ("Sammies" even convey a feeling of endearment), and makes a jolly rhyme for a jingle or a song, and would be a word every foreigner could pronounce easily.

It's a good recruiting word. The Boy Scouts could be "Sammy Juniors."

M. W. BRASHEARS.

New York, April 19, 1917.

The Decline of Mawkishness

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Never a good word to say for poor Ireland any more—only sneers and misrepresentations! But you are not alone. Most of the New York papers seem to have been completely Anglicized. Alas!

"But it cannot and will not come to good."
—Hamlet. ANCIEN AMI.

New York, April 18, 1917.